United Nations E/2011/SR.12

Economic and Social Council

Provisional

22 September 2011

Original: English

Resumed organizational session of 2011

Provisional summary record of the 12th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 26 May 2011, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Kapambwe ..... (Zambia)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

11-31464 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*)

Commission on Population and Development

2. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the outstanding vacancy in the Commission on Population and Development for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-eighth session, in 2015. He recalled that a note verbale of 25 February informing him that the Group of Asian States had endorsed the candidacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for that vacancy had not reached the Secretariat in time for action to be taken during the Council's resumed organizational session held on 28 April. He informed the Council that a secret ballot had been requested.

3. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) asked which delegation had requested the secret ballot.

4. **The President** said that the delegations of Canada and the United States of America had requested the secret ballot.

5. **Mr. Barton** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his country opposed the candidacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the United Nations Commission on Population and Development. The reservations of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, including its opposition to reproductive rights and the empowerment of women, suggested that it would not be a reliable partner in championing the goals of the Cairo Programme. His delegation would cast its vote for one of the many other Asian countries whose policies demonstrated a commitment to the Cairo goals.

6. **Mr. Rivard** (Canada) said that in order to maintain the credibility of the Commission on Population and Development, all its members needed to live up to the principle on which it was formed, particularly in light of its role in monitoring the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In that connection, the Islamic Republic of Iran had not been helpful or made a constructive contribution to the work of the Commission on the issues of gender equality and reproductive health addressed in the Programme of Action. Canada remained extremely troubled by the Iranian authorities' outrageous abuses of basic human rights and would cast its ballot in support of another country.

7. **Mr. Al Habib** (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he would not address the views expressed by the representative of Canada because that country, which had a long record of human rights violations, was clearly just following the wishes of the United States. As for the latter, it was hypocritical of the United States to request a secret ballot on an endorsed candidate when a mere two years previously — in the context of a vote on candidates for the Commission on Population and Development, as it happened — it had argued that no country should challenge a candidate endorsed by a regional group. Disrespecting the decisions of the regional groups ran counter to the principle of diversity that lent a sense of global ownership to the work of the United Nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran had always participated actively and constructively in the work of the Commission and would continue to do so whether or not it was re-elected. He called on the members of the Council not to give in to the efforts by one delegation to take advantage of a procedural delay to challenge the time-honoured tradition of respecting the decisions of regional groups.

8. **The President** said that in view of the fact that so many delegations had only one delegate present at the meeting, he would break with the tradition of having delegates draw lots, and accept offers from members of the delegations of Bangladesh and Peru to serve as tellers for the election. He took it that there was no objection to that procedure.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States.

11. *At the invitation of the President, Mr. Iqbal Ahmed (Bangladesh) and Ms. Marita Puertas (Peru) acted as tellers for the vote on the candidates from the Group of Asian States.*

12. *A vote was taken by secret ballot.*

Number of ballot papers:	44
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	42
Abstentions:	13
Number of members voting:	29
Required majority:	15
Number of votes obtained:	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	22
Nepal	2
Republic of Korea	2
Iraq	1
Mongolia	1
Thailand	1

13. *Having obtained the required majority, the Islamic Republic of Iran was elected a member of the Commission on Population and Development.*

14. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Commission for Population and Development, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of one member from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for four-year terms beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's forty-sixth session in 2012 and expiring at the close of its forty-ninth session in 2016.

15. *It was so decided.*

Commission on the Status of Women

16. **The President** announced that Malawi had been nominated on behalf of the Group of African States to fill an outstanding vacancy on the Commission on the Status of Women. In the absence of any other nominations, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Malawi for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting of the Commission's fifty-seventh session in 2012 and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixtieth session in 2016.

17. *It was so decided.*

18. *Malawi was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

19. **The President** invited the Council to take action on an outstanding vacancy on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. He recalled that a note verbale of 23 March from the Permanent Mission of Ecuador presenting the candidature of Ecuador for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting had, owing to technical reasons, not been considered by the Secretariat in time for the election to be held at the Council's resumed organizational session held on 28 April. A second note verbale dated 17 May had been sent presenting the candidacy of Ecuador for that Working Group. In the absence of any other nominations, he took it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation Ecuador for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2014.

20. *It was so decided.*

21. *Ecuador was elected a member of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting.*

22. **The President** said that, in the absence of any other candidates for election to the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, he took it that the Council wished to further postpone the election of three members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and four members from the Group of Western European and Other States for terms beginning on the date of the election and expiring on 31 December 2011; four members from the Group of Asian States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for terms beginning on the date of the election and expiring on 31 December 2012; and two members from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States, one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and nine members from the Group of Western European and Other States for three-year terms beginning on 1 January 2012.

23. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.